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# Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 03397 272105Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 SOE-02
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 INR-10 IO-14 L-03
NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05 ICA-20 OES-07 SS-15
SP-02 DOE-15 INT-05 PA-02 /140 W
----------074985 282104Z /66
R 271940Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7279
INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMCONSUL PORTO ALEGRE
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS BRASILIA 3397

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: TRIO, TOCY, BR
SUBJECT: REPORT OF UNKNOWN OFFSHORE POISONOUS GAS IN SOUTHERN
BRAZIL AND URUGUAY

REF: (A) BRASILIA 3175 (B) MONTEVIDEO 1345 (C) MONTEVIDEO
1373, (D) MONTEVIDEO 1391

1. SUMMARY. GOB CONCLUDES ECOLOGICAL INCIDENT DUE TO NATURAL PHENOMENA "RED TIDE", LARGELY DUE TO EVIDENCE AGAINST OTHER CAUSES. CONCLUSION NOT FULLY ACCEPTED, ESPECIALLY IN AFFECTED AREA, AND GOB ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY SINGLED OUT FOR ATTACK. END SUMMARY.

2. GOB ISSUED OFFICIAL NOTE APRIL 15 THROUGH HEALTH MINISTRY'S SECRETARIAT FOR BASIC ACTIONS ON SUBJECT INCIDENT AFFECTING SOUTHERN COAST OF RIO GRANDE DO SUL (RGDS) STATE FROM APRIL 1 TO 13 WHICH CONTAINED FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS:

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(A) LEVELS OF HEAVY METAL CONCERNTRATION MEASURED IN WATER, AIR, AND ANIMAL SAMPLES WERE WITHIN ACCEPTABLE INTERNATIONAL LIMITS.

(B) NO NITROGEN DIOXIDE, SULFER DIOXIDE, OR AMMONIA WERE DETECTED IN BEACH AIR SAMPLES.

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(C) ANALYSIS OF WATER SAMPLES FOR 15 ORGANO-
CHOLRIDE AND 18 ORGANO-PHOSPHATE PESTICIDES PROVED
ABSENCE OF THESE MATERIALS.

(C) MARINE ANIMAL SAMPLES CONTAINED LEVELS OF
CHLORIDE PESTICIDE RESIDUES LESS THAN ACCEPTABLE
INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.

(E) CLINICAL-EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DATA ON THIS
INCIDENT WERE IDENTICAL TO THOSE RECORDED AT OTHER
LOCATIONS AFFECTED BY "RED TIDE" PHENOMENA.

(F) MARINE BIOLOGICAL STUDIES MADE AFTER
INCIDENT PRODUCED EVIDENCE THAT PROCESSES OF "RED
TIDE" TYPE HAD OCCURRED.

(G) NO EVIDENCE OF NON-NATURAL CHEMICAL OR
RADIOACTIVE CONTAIMANTION WAS FOUND WHICH WOULD IMPLY
CONTINUING RISK TO INHABITANTS OF REGION.

H. DETAILS OF ALL STUDIES MADE OF INCIDENT
WILL BE PUBLISHED SHORTLY.

(I) SECRETARIAT RECOMMENDS THT SHELLFISH FROM
AFFECTED AREA NOT BE USED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION BUT
THAT FISH MAY SAFELY BE EATEN.
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3. PRECEDING CONCLUSIONS WERE REACHED BY GROUP
CONVENED BY MINISTER OF HEALTH WHICH INCLUDED REPRE-
SENTATIVES FROM HEALTH MINISTRY, INTERIOR MINISTRY'S
ENVIRONMENTAL SECRETARIAT (SEMA), UNIV. OF SAO PAULO
INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY, SAO PAULO STATE COMPANY OF
ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION TECHNOLOGY (CETESB), NAVAL
RESEARCH INSTITUTE, AND WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION.
NOTWITHSTANDING, OTHERS (ESPECIALLY IN RGDS) DO NOT
ACCEPT THESE CONCLUSIONS, ARE AWARE OF GOU STATEMENTS,
AND ARE STILL SEEKING OTHER EXPLANATIONS--PARTICULARLY
RELATED TO REPORTED JOINT US/URUGUAY STUDIES OF
"TAQUARI" CARGO. TWO ANOMALIES NOT EXPLAINED BY
HEALTH MINISTRY REPORT ARE ALLEGED DETECTION OF
METHYL ISOTHIOCYNATE RESIDUES IN DEAD ANIMALS AND
"POISON GAS" EFFECT ALONG BEACHES. (EMBASSY WOULD
APPRECIATE KNOWING IF LATTER EFFECT EVER DOCUMENTED
DURING "RED TIDE" OCCURRENCES.) RGDS ASSOCIATION
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION HAS ATTACKED SEMA CHIEF
PAULO NOGUEIRA NETO FOR STATEMENT THAT PESTICIDES
LOST BY "ITAPAGE" (REF B) WERE RENDERED HARMLESS BY
CAUSTIC SODA TREATMENT AND IS SEEKING TO HAVE HIM

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FIRED.

4. AMCONSUL IN PORTO ALEGRE AND SAO PAULO HAVE MADE COMMITMENT
TO SEEK ADDITIONAL ELUCIDATION FROM LOCAL SOURCES TO
ADD TO OFFICIAL AND NATIONAL PRESS INFORMATION.
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NNN

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# Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994
**Channel Indicators:** n/a
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED
**Concepts:** REPORTS, WATER POLLUTION, POISONS, GASES
**Control Number:** n/a
**Copy:** SINGLE
**Draft Date:** 27 apr 1978
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960
**Decaption Note:**
**Disposition Action:** n/a
**Disposition Approved on Date:**
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
**Disposition Comment:**
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960
**Disposition Event:**
**Disposition History:** n/a
**Disposition Reason:**
**Disposition Remarks:**
**Document Number:** 1978BRASIL03397
**Document Source:** CORE
**Document Unique ID:** 00
**Drafter:** n/a
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**Errors:** N/A
**Expiration:**
**Film Number:** D780182-0860
**Format:** TEL
**From:** BRASILIA
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a
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**Office:** ACTION ARA
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Page Count:** 3
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**Reference:** 78 BRASILIA 3175, 78 MONTEVIDEO 1345, 78 MONTEVIDEO 78
**Retention:** 0
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED
**Review Content Flags:**
**Review Date:** 29 mar 2005
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**SAS ID:** 2834023
**Secure:** OPEN
**Status:** NATIVE
**Subject:** REPORT OF UNKNOWN OFFSHORE POISONOUS GAS IN SOUTHERN BRAZIL AND URUGUAY
**TAGS:** TBIO, TOCY, SENV, BR
**To:** STATE
**Type:** TE
**vdkvgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4647bda6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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